

Appl. No. 10/630,487
Amdt. dated Nov. 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 21, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 4. This sheet, which includes only FIG. 4, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 4. In FIG. 4, nodes "F" and "G" have been interchanged to more properly coincide with the recitations of the detailed description and FIGs. 8 and 9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 11 and 12 were indicated as being allowed. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and/or remarks provided herein.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

2. Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner asserted that the step of "detecting that the first communication connection is not active" is not properly described in the application. Responsive to the rejection, Applicant has herein cancelled claim 4 and amended claim 1 to delete the term "not active" and replace it with the term "disconnected", which term was originally used in claim 1 and is fully supported on page 14, line 15 through page 15, line 5 of Applicant's originally filed specification. In addition, the term "disconnected" is used in allowed claim 11. Applicant's amendment does not require any further search or consideration by the Examiner because the Examiner has already considered the term "disconnected" as used in claim 1 and such term is not critical in distinguishing the present invention from the references of record.

As Applicant clearly discussed in its Amendment filed May 9, 2005, there is no indication of any kind within Fujisawa (US2002/0059176) that a single device connects sequentially to a single contact using more than one communication means on more than one communication connection. Thus, the distinction between Fujisawa and claim 1 is that of sequential connection to a single contact using at least two different communication means on at least two different connections, not simply detecting that the first communication connection is "not active" as opposed to "disconnected." In other words, Applicant did not distinguish the method recited in claim 1 from Fujisawa based on incorporation of the term "not active" in the "detecting" step of the method. Thus, replacement of the term "not active" with the original term "disconnected" has absolutely no bearing on the patentability of claim 1 in view of the cited references. However, such amendment clearly overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112,

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first paragraph, because disconnection of the first communication connection is fully supported at page 14, line 15 through page 15, line 5 of Applicant's originally filed specification. Therefore, in view of the amendment to claim 1, Applicant submits that the recitations of claims 1-3 and 5-10 comply with all the statutory requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that claims 1-3 and 5-10 be passed to allowance.

Amendments to the Specification

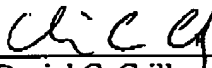
3. Applicants have herein amended paragraphs 0007, 0008, 0013, 0014, 0019, 0023, 0028, 0030-0034, and 0037-0039 of the specification to correct minor informalities contained therein. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by such amendments.

Allowed Claims

4. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 11 and 12.

5. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone, facsimile or email if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the instant application. Please charge any necessary fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees (if applicable and not paid by separate check), to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1111.

Respectfully submitted,

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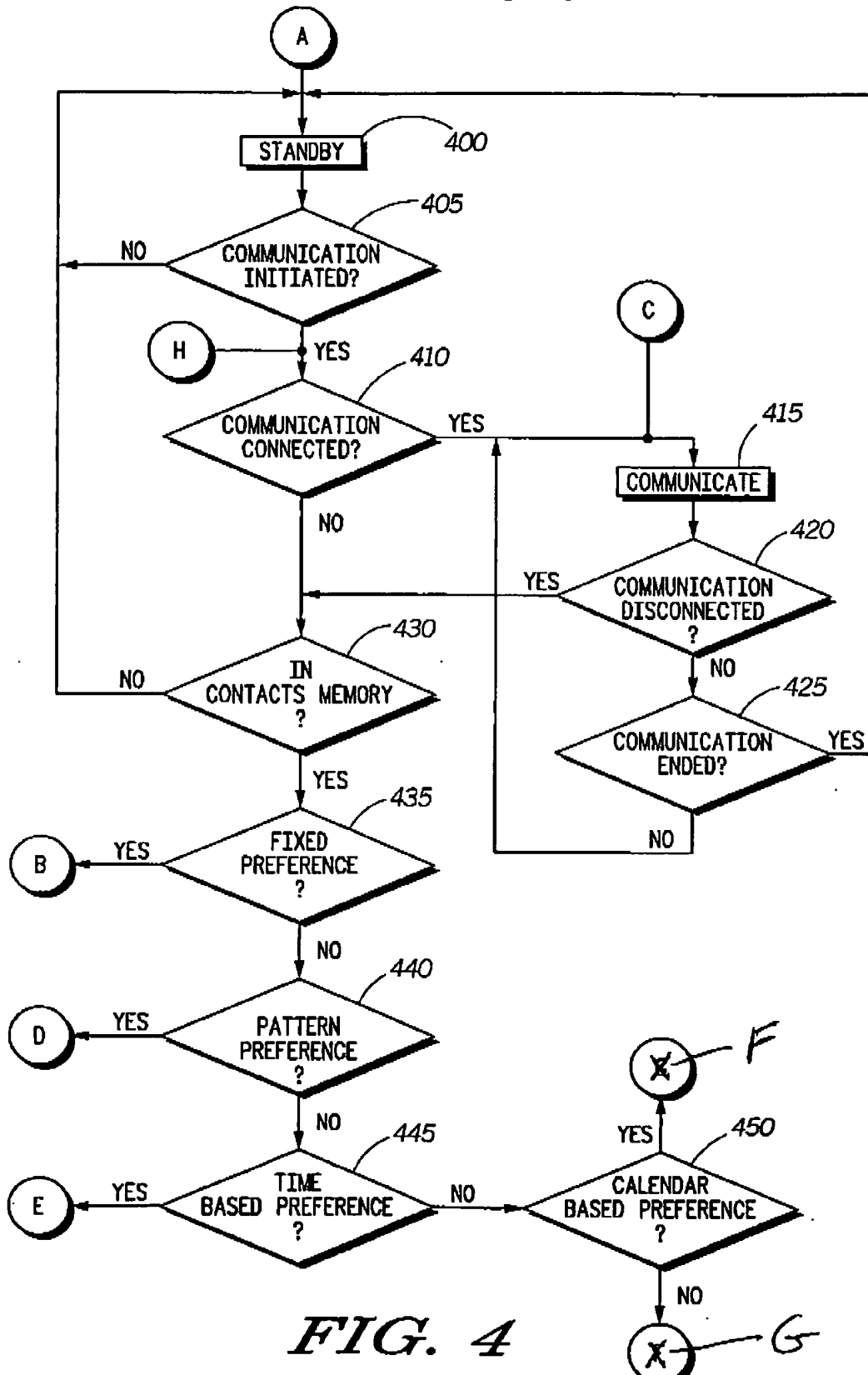


FIG. 4